

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A Gel-like~~ mass for the treatment of ambient air, comprising ~~containing~~ a matrix ~~of from~~ cross-linked polymers bearing hydrophilic groups, namely which comprises:

X) reaction products of a polymer bearing hydrophilic groups and having a molecular weight of more than 400, selected from maleinized or epoxidized polymers or carbohydrates, with a cross-linking agent, selected from polyamines with 2 or 3 amino groups, urea, polyethylene imine, epichlorhydrin, triethyleneglycol, pyromellithic acid anhydride, zinc oxide, zinc acetate or calcium hydroxide,

or

Y) copolymers of a monofunctional (meth-)acrylate monomer having a molecular weight of 50 to 1000 and a polyfunctional (meth-)acrylate monomer as cross-linking agent,

to which 10 to 90 %, with reference to the mass, of volatile active agents are adsorbed, which together with the matrix form a ~~sponge-like~~ structure, from which the active agents can be released to the ambient air and volatilize, wherein characterized in that the polymer matrix comprises ~~contains~~ at least two different polymers, A and B ~~A, B,~~

wherein the polymers A and B, after cross-linking, are present in the cross-linked polymer matrix as discrete layers lying side by side.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like~~ mass according to claim 1, wherein characterized in that the polymers A and B, ~~A, B,~~ after cross-linking, form an interpenetrating network in the cross-linked polymer matrix.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like~~ mass according to claim 1, wherein characterized in that the polymers A and B, ~~A, B,~~ after cross-linking, form a partly interpenetrating network in the cross-linked polymer matrix.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like~~ mass according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that the cross-linked polymer matrix comprises consists of~~ two different polymers A and B, ~~A and B~~, of which one is more and the other is less water-compatible.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like~~ mass according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that the cross-linked polymer matrix comprises contains~~ at least 10 % by weight of each of the polymers A and B ~~A, B,~~.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like~~ mass according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that the cross-linking agent is a polyamine.~~

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like~~ mass according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that the mass comprises a polymer of polymer class X and wherein the polymer of polymer class X:~~

(a) is a maleinized or epoxidized polydiolefine, or preferably

(b) is polybutadiene or polydecadiene.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like~~ mass according to claim 8, wherein ~~characterized in that the maleinized polymer is a reaction product of a liquid polybutadiene and maleic acid anhydride.~~

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like~~ mass according to claim 7, wherein ~~characterized in that the polyamine is polyoxypropylene diamine or polyoxypropylene triamine.~~

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like~~ mass according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that the cross-linked polymers X comprises contains~~ hydrophilic -CHR-O- and/or -NR-CO- groups.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like~~ mass according to claim 13, wherein ~~characterized in that the monofunctional monomer comprises contains~~ hydrophilic HO-, -CH₂-CH₂-O-, H₂N- or CONH- groups.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like-mass~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the active agents are aldehydes, ketones, alcohols, esters, terpenes or natural oily essences.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like-mass~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the active agents are herbicides, insecticides, insect-repellents, fungicides, nematocides or akaricides.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like-mass~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the active agents comprise ~~are biocides, like~~ phenolic compounds, halogen compounds, or quaternary ammonium compounds, or one or more other biocides.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like-mass~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized that~~ the polymer matrix comprises ~~contains~~ 0.01 to 90 % by weight of water.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like-mass~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the polymer matrix comprises ~~contains~~ flame retardant agents, like

(a) bromine compounds, sugar, azodicarbonamide, or one or more other flame retardant agents;

(b) solvents, like alcohols or one or more other solvents; ~~means for preventing caking,~~
like

(c) saw dust or one or more cake prevention agents; and

(d) sublimation assistants which accelerate the release of the active agents.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like-mass~~ according to claim 1, wherein a surface of the mass exhibits ~~characterized by~~ a surface tension of between 5 and 80 dynes/cm.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like-mass~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the polymer matrix comprises ~~contains~~ microscopic voids having a pore size of 0.1 to 100 μm , in which the active agents are adsorbed.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like-mass~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ it is applied to a carrier material or encased in a carrier material, so that it forms together with the carrier material a flat sheet.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like-mass~~ according to claim 20, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the carrier material is a fiber fleece or a fiber fabric which may be coated with a plastic material.
22. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like-mass~~ according to claim 21, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the fibers are cellulose, cotton, linen, a polyamide or a polyester.
23. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like-mass~~ according to claim 20, wherein ~~characterized that~~ the flat sheet is 0.01 to 5 mm thick.
24. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like-mass~~ which is applied to a carrier material according to claim 20 and has the form of a sheet, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the sheet is rolled together, the individual layers having a distance of 1 to 100 mm from each other.
25. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like-mass~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ it is in the form of crumbs, shavings, granules or spheres.
26. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like-mass~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ it is in the form of strips or boards having a thickness of 2 to 50 mm and being laid upon nets or lattices.
27. (Currently Amended) ~~The Gel-like-mass~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the active agents are released slowly and steadily for a period of at least three days.
28. (Currently Amended) A method of using the mass according to claim 1 comprising:
~~The use of the gel-like-mass according to claim 1 for~~
removing or masking malodorous substances in the air,
wherein the ~~characterized in that the~~ adsorbed active agents are selected from the
group consisting of aldehydes, ketones, alcohols, esters, terpenes, and ~~or~~ natural oily essences
are slowly and steadily released and volatilize, and then react with the malodorous substances
or mask them.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of removing or masking comprises ~~The use as claimed in claim 28 for deodorizing pig or other animal breeding facilities, stables, or and liquid manure containers, especially pig breeding facilities.~~

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of removing or masking comprises ~~The use as claimed in claim 28 for deodorizing rooms in hotels, restaurants, or other buildings, especially in hotels and restaurants.~~

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of removing or masking comprises ~~The use as claimed in claim 28 for deodorizing a public means of transport vehicle.~~

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of removing or masking comprises ~~The use as claimed in claim 28 for deodorizing large-scale plants in which malodorous solid or liquid substances are stored open-air.~~

33. (Currently Amended) A method of using the mass of claim 1, comprising:
~~The use of the gel-like mass according to claim 1 as pesticides, characterized in that allowing one or more pests to contact the adsorbed active agents which are selected from the group consisting of herbicides, insecticides, insect-repellents, fungicides, nematocides, and or akaricides which are slowly and steadily released from the mass to contact the pests and display their efficiency against pests and harmful substances.~~

34. (Currently Amended) A method of using the mass of claim 1, comprising:
~~The use of the gel-like mass according to claim 1 as pesticides, characterized in that exterminating microorganisms by permitting the microorganisms to contact the adsorbed active agents which are selected from the group consisting of biocides, like phenolic compounds, halogen compounds, or quaternary ammonium compounds, or other biocides are slowly and steadily released and react with the microorganisms and exterminate them.~~

35. (Currently Amended) The Gel-like mass according to claim 1 in the form of a thin sheet, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the surface of the gel-like mass is coated with 0.01 to 1 g per cm² of ultrafine particles of an oxide, a sulfide or a selenide of zinc or cadmium.